

Lesson 33

Words To Learn This Week

volunteer
prejudice
shrill
jolly
witty
hinder
lecture
abuse
mumble
mute
wad
retain

"I understand a fury in your words,
But not the words."

—Shakespeare, *Othello*

1. **volunteer** (vəl ən tēr') person who enters any service of his or her own free will; to offer one's services
 - a. The draft has been abolished* and replaced by a **volunteer** army.
 - b. Terry did not hesitate* to **volunteer** for the most difficult jobs.
 - c. The boys were reluctant* to **volunteer** their services to help clean up after the dance.
2. **prejudice** (prej' ə dis) an opinion formed without taking time and care to judge fairly; to harm or injure
 - a. **Prejudice** against minority* groups will linger* on as long as people ignore* the facts.
 - b. Eliminating* **prejudice** should be among the first concerns of a democracy.
 - c. The witness's weird* behavior **prejudiced** Nancy's case.
3. **shrill** (shrɪl) having a high pitch; high and sharp in sound; piercing
 - a. Despite* their small size, crickets make very **shrill** noises.
 - b. The **shrill** whistle of the policeman was warning enough for the fugitive* to stop in his tracks.
 - c. A **shrill** torrent* of insults poured from the mouth of the shrieking* woman.
4. **jolly** (jäl' ē) merry; full of fun
 - a. The **jolly** old man, an admitted bigamist,* had forgotten to mention his first wife to his new spouse.*
 - b. When the **jolly** laughter subsided,* the pirates began the serious business of dividing the gold.
 - c. Are you aware* that a red-suited gentleman with a **jolly** twinkle in his eyes is stuck in the chimney?
5. **witty** (wit' ē) cleverly amusing
 - a. Mr. Carlson's **witty** introduction qualifies* him as a first-rate speaker.
 - b. Fay is too slow to appreciate such **witty** remarks.
 - c. The lawyer tried to prosecute* the case by being **witty** and thereby entertaining the jury.
6. **hinder** (hin' dər) hold back; make hard to do
 - a. Deep mud **hindered** travel in urban* centers.
 - b. The storm **hindered** the pursuit* of the fleeing* prisoners.
 - c. Mona's gloomy* nature **hinders** her relationships with other people.
7. **lecture** (lek' chər) speech or planned talk; a scolding; to scold
 - a. Rarely* have I heard a **lecture** with such clear illustrations.*
 - b. Henry's father **lectured** him on the awesome* perils* of drug addiction.*
 - c. A famous journalist* delivered a **lecture** on prejudice* in the press.
8. **abuse** (ə būz' or ə būs') make bad use of; use wrongly; treat badly; scold very severely; bad or wrong use; bad treatment
 - a. Those who **abuse** the privileges of the honor system will be penalized.*
 - b. The editor* apologized* for the **abuse** we had suffered as a result of his article.
 - c. Brutal* **abuse** of children in the orphanage was disclosed* by the investigation.
9. **mumble** (mum' bl) speak indistinctly
 - a. Ricky **mumbled** his awkward* apology.*
 - b. This speech course will encourage* you to stop **mumbling** and to speak more distinctly.
 - c. When the witness continued to **mumble**, the judge asked him to speak up.

10. **mute** (mūt) silent; unable to speak
 - a. The usually defiant* child stood **mute** before the principal.
 - b. People are no longer willing to remain **mute** on the subject of abuse* of gun control.
 - c. The horror of the famine* left the inhabitants* of the land **mute** with their tragic* memories.
11. **wad** (wād) small, soft mass; to roll or crush into a small mass
 - a. To decrease* the effects of the pressure, the diver put **wads** of cotton in his ears.
 - b. The officer challenged* George to explain the **wad** of fifty dollars which he had in his pocket.
 - c. Because the automatic firing mechanism was defective,* the hunter had to **wad** the powder into the gun by hand.
12. **retain** (ri tăn') keep; remember; employ by payment of a fee
 - a. Despite* her lack* of funds Mrs. Reilly **retained** a detective* to follow her spouse*.
 - b. China dishes have the unique* quality* of **retaining** heat longer than metal pans.
 - c. Like the majority* of people, I can **retain** the tune but not the words of a song.

Read the following passage to see how the new words are used in it.

Don't Look over My Shoulder!

The kibitzer is a person who **volunteers** useless information, especially in card games, causing the players to be **prejudiced** against him. The name comes from a Yiddish word which originally referred* to a certain bird whose **shrill** cry scared the animals away upon the approach* of the hunters. Though the kibitzer may think he is being **jolly** or **witty**, his advice often **hinders** more than it helps. We may scowl* at him or **lecture** him for his

abuse of our friendship, but he still continues to **mumble** his unwelcome remarks. The serious player may even wish he could make the kibitzer **mute** by sticking a **wad** of cotton in his mouth. The kibitzer, however, may not realize that he is causing torment* or distress* to his colleagues.* Thus we may have to resign* ourselves to his annoying habit if we wish to **retain** him as a friend.

Which of the words studied in this lesson is suggested by the picture?

